

LB 949

offered, to be rejected. Students do a certain amount of work and they should get a certain amount of money. The ones called inexperienced workers would do the same thing. What we're talking about here is not subsidized semi-slave labor for employers. We're talking about a decent, fair wage for labor expended by an employee. On this bill it should be brought to your attention that the Federal Government, the Nixon Administration, is proposing a raise in the Federal Minimum Wage to \$2.30 over a four year period. This bill with the categories included without the Labor Committee's amendment, would bring the minimum wage in Nebraska to the paltry sum of \$1.60 an hour after three years. I think that to expect people to work for any less than this amount is to expect them to work for next to nothing and it makes it cheaper and better to be unemployed than to be employed. I doubt if there is a man or woman in this body or this room who would work for \$1 an hour. I think it's unreasonable to say that a non-agricultural employee with the expenses in the society being what they are today, with the cost of food, clothing, shelter and everything else rising, to say that in 1974 a person is still going to be required to work in the State of Nebraska for \$1 an hour. I think it's unreasonable, I think it's unfair and I would ask you to reject all of the committee's amendments except the one that would exempt superintendents and supervisors from the minimum wage coverage.

SPEAKER: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President and Members of the body. I would also oppose the amendments. I would like to inform the members of this body that I did oppose these amendments with the exception of the supervisor amendment in the committee and I remain opposed to them. I think that the, the practical effects of accepting these amendments is, as Senator Chambers states, to an effect, guts the bill. The bill as it stands now is not even a decent bill for, for this Legislature to pass. I think we should all be severely embarrassed if we were to pass this. The testimony in opposition to the bill and--and as a result, where the amendments derived from, was solely from a gentleman from Omaha named Jerry Dunn who, who runs a restaurant there and the committee apparently was so enraptured with his objections and the fact that it might cost him a little bit of money, that they chose to gut the bill and I, I think it was a bad move then and I still think it is and I urge this body to reject the amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I rise to oppose the amendments placed before us by the committee with the exception of the first one mentioned which would exclude the supervisory personnel.

SPEAKER: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and Members of the body. Labor law comes in two forms. One by the Federal Government and one by the State Government. In almost all instances those who comply with the Federal Government are so-called big businesses and those who comply with the State law are so-called small businesses. Now it was the committee's intent and a very well--very good job well done in lining up our State law with the Federal law. Now if we have a situation where the State of Nebraska's minimum wage law is more restrictive on the employer than the Federal law is, we immediately have a situation where our small business, our small town or small business in the city, has to compete paying wages that their big business counterpart down on the corner does not have to pay. Now this is not only discriminating against that particular business, it's discriminating against employees in choosing where they want to work, whether they want to work in a small business or whether they are available only to the giants of industry that are covered by the Federal Wage

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